

REMARKS

The following amendment is submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. The notice of allowance in this application was mailed on February 7, 2005.

This amendment is submitted to clarify the basis for priority to International Application No. PCT/FR99/01973 (the "PCT Application") and contains no new matter. The instant application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. § 365(c) of the PCT Application, which claims priority to French Patent Application No. FR98/10338. Applicants indicated such a basis for priority to the PCT Application on the Utility Patent Application Transmittal filed on November 28, 2000. The Utility Patent Application Transmittal states that the instant application is a continuation of WO 00/09679, which is the publication number of the PCT Application.

Applicants noted that the basis for priority required clarification while reviewing the continuity data for the allowed application, and accordingly request entry of the above amendment to the specification at the present time. Applicants apologize for not making such a request earlier.

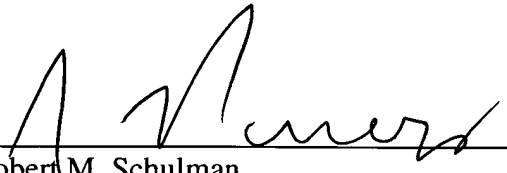
Applicants believe that no charges are due in connection with this amendment. However, in the event Patent Office charges are due, please charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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